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In chapter viii., bringing us to 1810, the author gives an admirable account of the famous *Chesapeake* affair. The next two chapters concern Rodgers's cruises in command of the frigate *President*, before and during the War of 1812. In 1811 an exemplification of the strained and unstable relations of the United States and Great Britain was furnished by the encounter with the *Little Belt*, an unfortunate but seemingly unavoidable occurrence. While actively cruising nearly two years after the declaration of war, had fortune favored him, Rodgers might have captured five frigates at various times. Three of them he chased, but they escaped; the other two he avoided under the impression that they were ships of the line. Nevertheless, the services of the *President* during these cruises were of great value and importance. She kept the British fleet occupied and diverted from the pursuit of American merchantmen, and although missing two large convoys of the enemy she took many prizes. Rodgers's plan was to cruise in squadron and he displayed a better knowledge of strategy than any other American commander. In 1814 Rodgers served on shore, assisting in the defense of Washington and Baltimore. After a chapter devoted to this subject come the last four of the book, dealing with the commodore's life in Washington and his long service as president of the Board of Navy Commissioners, extending from 1815 until 1837, with the exception of a three years' interruption at the middle of the period when he performed his last sea service in command of the Mediterranean squadron. As navy commissioner Rodgers did much to develop naval policy and his influence has been enduring. He was one of the first to foresee the supremacy of steam and to urge its adoption.

The publication of this book reduces by one the number of lives of our naval worthies which ought to be written, and the work has been done in a most thorough and satisfactory manner. To mention the one error discovered, Commodore Thomas Macdonough appears as James in the index and on pages 33 and 39 seems to be confounded with a midshipman of that name. An extensive bibliography doubtless contains about all there is in print besides a large amount of manuscript material. This latter comprises the official records in the Library of Congress and in the library of the Navy Department, including a large collection of Rodgers's papers; also numerous papers in the possession of the commodore's descendants. A number of interesting illustrations, including three portraits of Rodgers, should be mentioned, also an excellent index.

G. W. ALLEN.

Henry Clay. By his Grandson, THOMAS HART CLAY. Completed by ELLIS PAXSON OBERHOLTZER, Ph.D. [American Crisis Biographies.] (Philadelphia: George W. Jacobs and Company. 1910. Pp. 450.)

THIS biography, left unfinished at the death of Thomas Hart Clay in 1907, has been completed by Dr. Oberholtzer, the editor of the series

to which it belongs, with the assistance of Mrs. Clay. The loss or destruction of the larger part of Clay's correspondence, together with the wide dispersion of what little remains, has made it impossible, we are told, to incorporate in the work much new material; but the editor vouches for the statement "that what it is possible to find has been found, and that no considerable number of letters remain anywhere untouched".

Mr. John T. Morse, jr., in his editorial introduction to Schurz's life of Clay, justifies the allotment of two volumes to the subject on the ground that Clay "managed to get upon both sides of pretty much every great question which arose in his day". The dictum, curiously at variance with Schurz's own conclusions, is to be defended only on the assumption that he who acts the part of pacifier in great national crises is a "straddler" rather than a statesman. Such, certainly, is not the impression which the present biography gives. Mr. Clay (as such we will designate the author here) is, to be sure, frankly eulogistic. While he does not blink Clay's weaknesses or mistakes, he writes throughout with no concealment of his admiration for Clay as a statesman and a man, and, it must be admitted, with an asperity towards Clay's opponents which on the whole is uncalled for. Moreover, he does not attempt the broad treatment of American politics which makes Schurz's volumes notable; on the contrary, he adopts the old-fashioned annalistic method for the most part, disposes summarily of the general course of events, and lets Clay speak for himself in letters, speeches, and personal relations with constituents and friends. While, therefore, one must not expect to find in this volume any important addition to knowledge, the work is of importance as a somewhat different setting-forth of Clay's position from that which has often been exhibited.

On far the larger number of questions which came before Congress during his public life, Clay's attitude, as the record here set down shows, was one of remarkable consistency. He never ceased to advocate internal improvements, nor to urge close political relations with the states of Central and South America. He opposed Jackson on broad grounds of personal and political fitness quite dissociated from the "corrupt bargain" charge; and he never trusted Van Buren. His support of the Bank of the United States did not waver even in the face of the wide popular approval of Jackson's policy. No one condemned more often or more unsparingly Nullification, or, for that matter, the whole theory of states' rights and constitutional construction for which Calhoun stood.

There remain the two questions of slavery and the tariff, on both of which Clay appears as the great compromiser. Clay did not approve of slavery, rejoiced in the progress of emancipation, and consistently urged colonization as a solution of the race problem involved; but he believed, and properly, that the institution could not be done away with by Congress, and that it had equal constitutional rights with freedom in

the territories. That he did not feel the moral force of Abolition, or appreciate the revolution slowly taking place in public opinion in the North, is true; few of his great contemporaries did; but this, after all is said and done, is only to point out that he stood on the wrong side of a great issue, not that he "straddled" the question. Nor does it appear that he ever abandoned, or even abated, his belief in protection, or that he regarded the tariff of 1833 in any other light than that of a temporary reduction of duties made necessary to save the Union. The precise measure of protection to be accorded to this or that industry was, indeed, a matter of compromise, but the principle of protection was not surrendered.

Mr. Clay's work has been carefully done, and was worth doing. When Clay's letters and speeches shall have been satisfactorily edited, this book should prove a valuable guide to the writer who attempts a definitive biography of Henry Clay.

WILLIAM MACDONALD.

A Documentary History of American Industrial Society. Edited by JOHN R. COMMONS, ULRICH B. PHILLIPS, EUGENE A. GILMORE, HELEN L. SUMNER, and JOHN B. ANDREWS. Prepared under the auspices of the American Bureau of Industrial Research, with the co-operation of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. With preface by RICHARD T. ELY and introduction by JOHN B. CLARK. Volumes III. and IV. *Labor Conspiracy Cases, 1806-1842.* (Cleveland, Ohio: The Arthur H. Clark Company. 1910. Pp. 385; 341.)

IN 1806, the measures taken by certain journeymen cordwainers of Philadelphia to compel their employers to pay them higher wages, and to force certain of their fellow-workmen to become members of their organization, caused them to be indicted in the mayor's court for conspiracy; and after a long and ably conducted trial they were duly convicted and fined. Similar prosecutions were subsequently (1806-1840) instituted, usually with the same results, against the cordwainers' and other workmen's associations in Baltimore and several other cities. So great was the interest excited by these Labor Conspiracy Cases that elaborate pamphlet reports, containing in many instances full stenographic records of the testimony of witnesses and the arguments of counsel, were published and widely distributed. Volumes III. and IV. of the *Documentary History* reprint such of these pamphlets as are still extant, together with contemporary newspaper accounts of cases not otherwise reported. They give, besides, references to others of these decisions that appear in volumes of published court reports. Thus they render practically accessible for the first time a great deal of very interesting and valuable material bearing upon labor conditions in the early years of the United States. Volume III. is further en-